

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-15
NSC-05 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01 SIG-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY EA:TJBARNES:RDAVIS:CCH
APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY
D/HA:SCLOWMAN
P:CEMCMANAWAY DRAFT)
EA/ANP:ESHURWITZ (DRAFT)
EUR/CAN:CJCLEMENT (DRAFT)
EUR/CE:SGKLINGAMAN (DRAFT)
EUR/NE:REWOODS (DRAFT)
EUR/SE:JHMORTON (DRAFT)
EUR/WE:JFDOBBINS (DRAFT)
NEA/IRN:MLGREENE
NEA/IAI:MGANDERSON
ARA/AND:ASCFULLER
ARA/ECA:SMMYLES

-----111269 120405Z /21

P R 120027Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES
OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION

REF: A. STATE 178333 (NOTAL) B. WELLINGTON 3084 (NOTAL)
C. COPENHAGEN 4748 (NOTAL) D. BONN 9243 (NOTAL)

1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AUGUST 11 MADE A DETERMINATION TO PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES 15,000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. HIS DETERMINATION PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR RENEWED APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION TO ADMIT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, PREFERABLY ON THE BASIS OF A MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY QUOTA.

2. THE PLIGHT OF THE BOAT CASE REFUGEE IS PARTICULARLY POIGNANT. PRESS AND STATE DEPARTMENT CABLE ACCOUNTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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EXTENSIVE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF LIFE REACHED A CRESCENDO IN JUNE AND JULY. THEY CENTERED ON SHIPS AT SEA THAT PASSED UP REFUGEES IN DISTRESS, AND ON SOME COUNTRIES AROUND THE PERIPHERY OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA THAT FORCED BOATS BACK OFFSHORE, OR REFUSED TO ALLOW TO DEBARK IN THEIR PORTS THOSE REFUGEES THAT SHIPS HAD ALREADY RESCUED.

3. SOME COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION ARE CONTINUING OR EXPANDING THEIR EFFORTS. FRANCE HAS AVERAGED AN INTAKE OF ABOUT 1000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PER MONTH SINCE MAY 1975. AUSTRALIA HAS JUST ESTABLISHED A REFUGEE OFFICE IN BANGKOK. AUSTRALIA, IN ADDITION TO THE SOME 3000 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IT HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN, PLANS TO ADMIT 150 PER MONTH FOR AT LEAST A YEAR STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 1977. NEW ZEALAND ANNOUNCED JULY 26 THAT IT WOULD SHORTLY ACCEPT UP TO 70 FAMILIES, OR SOME 420 INDIVIDUALS (REF B). CANADA, WHICH HAS ALREADY TAKEN IN SOME 7000, RECENTLY INFORMED THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 450 MORE. DENMARK ANNOUNCED IN EARLY AUGUST THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT 50 BOAT CASES (REF C). THE UNITED STATES, WHICH HAS ABOUT 146,000 IN THE COUNTRY, WILL TAKE 8000 FROM THAI CAMPS, IN ADDITION TO 7000 BOAT CASE REFUGEES.

4. THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE WITH INDOCHINESE REFUGEES HAS BEEN POSITIVE. TEACHERS PRAISE THE SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CHILDREN, AND MANY EMPLOYERS ARE

ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE WORK ATTITUDES AND HABITS OF THE ADULTS. ALTHOUGH AS OF JUNE 1, SOME 63 PERCENT OF THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WERE DRAWING AT LEAST SOME LIMITED WELFARE ASSISTANCE, THAT FIGURE COMPARES QUITE FAVORABLY WITH ANOTHER LARGE GROUP OF REFUGEES, WHOSE NATIVE LANGUAGE IS NOT ALL THAT DISSIMILAR FROM ENGLISH, AFTER THEY HAD BEEN HERE ONLY TWO YEARS. MOST ADULT INDOCHINESE ARE EMPLOYED. THE MAJORITY HAVE TAKEN MINIMUM WAGE JOBS FOR WHICH MANY AMERICANS DO NOT CHOOSE TO COMPETE. INDE-
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PENDENT SURVEYS OF A CONTROL GROUP OF 400 VIETNAMESE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD TAKEN ON FOUR OCCASIONS BETWEEN AUGUST 1975 AND APRIL 1977 INDICATED A STEADY AND MARKED INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT FROM 68 PERCENT TO 94 PERCENT. EMPLOYMENT WAS CONSISTENTLY AND POSITIVELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE LEVEL OF ENGLISH PROFICIENCY. THE CRIME RATE AMONG INDOCHINESE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTANT.

5. UNHCR FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES RESETTLED BETWEEN APRIL 1975 AND THE END OF JULY 1977 ARE:

UNITED STATES	146,000
FRANCE	36,000
CANADA	7,000
AUSTRALIA	3,000
MALAYSIA	1,400
WEST GERMANY	1,000
BELGIUM	900
UNITED KINGDOM	430
DENMARK	300
AUSTRIA	220
ITALY	215

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NORWAY	164
NEW ZEALAND	160

HONG KONG 154
NETHERLANDS 140
PHILIPPINES 120
SWITZERLAND 70
ISRAEL 66
PARAGUAY 16

6. REFUGEES ESCAPING BY BOAT HAVE BEEN ARRIVING ON ASIAN SHORES DURING 1977 AT THE RATE OF 500 PER MONTH, WITH AN ADDITIONAL 1200 PER MONTH CROSSING RIVER AND LAND BORDERS INTO THAILAND. THAILAND CURRENTLY HAS 81,000 NON-BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN TEMPORARY ASYLUM. BASED ON WHAT HAS BEEN OCCURING, THE ONLY PRUDENT PLANNING ASSUMPTION IS THAT THE OUTFLOW WILL CONTINUE. THE U.S. PAROLE OF 15,000 REFUGEES IS THUS A PALLIATIVE, NOT A CURE. A BROADENED INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE IS THE BEST ANSWER.

7. ACTION REQUESTED (EXCEPT FOR BONN, CANBERRA, COPENHAGEN, OTTAWA, PARIS, AND WELLINGTON): DRAWING ON THE ABOVE DATA, APPROACH YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST EFFECTIVE LEVEL TO STIMULATE RESETTLEMENT OFFERS FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. SUGGEST THAT THE MOST POSITIVE RESPONSE WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY QUOTA, HOWEVER MODEST OR GENEROUS, IN ORDER TO HELP RELIEVE THE CURRENT CRITICAL SITUATION. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD PROVIDE A DEGREE OF CERTAINTY WHICH WOULD UNCLASSIFIED

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LEND MUCH GREATER CREDIBILITY TO THE UNHCR GUARANTEE TO RESETTLE SUCH REFUGEES AND WOULD BE ESPECIALLY USEFUL IN ENCOURAGING SHIPS AT SEA AND COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM TO BE HOSPITABLE TO FUTURE BOAT CASE REFUGEES. REPORT THE RESULTS OF YOUR APPROACHES BY AUGUST 18.

8. FOR BONN: EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S RECENT REQUEST TO THE STATES FOR APPROVAL TO ACCEPT AN ADDITIONAL 200 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES (REFD) AND ASK WHEN APPROVAL OF REQUEST EXPECTED.

9. FOR CANBERRA: EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE RECENT POLICY DECISION TO ADMIT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ON A FIXED MONTHLY QUOTA. SUGGEST CONCURRENT APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION.

10. FOR PARIS: EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR THE CONTINUING AND HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT FRENCH PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE

REFUGEES. SUGGEST CONCURRENT APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES
OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION.

11. FOR COPENHAGEN, OTTAWA AND WELLINGTON: EXPRESS
GRATITUDE FOR THE RECENT PLEDGES AND ANNOUNCEMENT,
RESPECTIVELY, TO ADMIT INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. ASK WHETHER
THE HOST GOVERNMENT WOULD CONSIDER A MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY
QUOTA. SUGGEST CONCURRENT APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES OF
TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION.

12. FOR BOGOTA, BRASILIA AND CARACAS: YOU MAY WISH
TO RECALL THE 1976 APPEALS BY UNHCR. PLEASE SEE 1976
STATE TELGRAMS 264588, 240076, 217215, 194698.

13. FOR TEL AVIV: THIS PAROLE ACTION DOES NOT AFFECT
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THE STATUS OF THE 66 REFUGEES THAT ISRAEL HAS ACCEPTED.
THEY ARE CONSIDERED AS RESETTLED IN ISRAEL. CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, DIPLOMATIC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708117/baaetmo.tel
Line Count: 241
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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